

BACKGROUND - COLOMBO POWERS AND SEATO

I. Communist success in Indochina has further unsettled all but one of the neutralist-inclined Colombo powers.

A. India, Ceylon, Burma and Indonesia have rejected Western approaches seeking their adherence to SEATO or attendance at preliminary meeting as observers, either directly or implicitly.

B. This wariness has left door open for competing maneuvers.

These taking form of:

1. A new Colombo Conference, suggested by Ceylon, possibly at Indian instigation, to take place during September, at Rangoon or Colombo.

2. An Indian proposal for a regional alliance, including military clauses and allegedly conferring most of the benefits of SEATO without Western participation.

C. Of the five Colombo powers, only Pakistan is willing, eager at this time to participate in SEA security meetings with the West.